

I am opposed to any further reduction of standards in order to obtain an amateur radio license. CW (A1) is the second most popular mode in amateur radio today, second only to voice communications. It is our premier weak signal mode, does not require a computer to encode or decode, and requires very little effort to master to achieve 5 words per minute proficiency. I would support petitions such as the one from FISTS which seek to extend some limited HF range privileges to the Technician class licensees while retaining the Element 1 testing for General/Extra class licenses. Class D CB radio should serve as a shining example of what happens to a radio service that includes the general public and has no standards. Many of us feel that amateur radio has been tending in that direction in the last decade or two. I encourage the Commission to retain morse code. It is not archaic or outdated as some would have us believe.